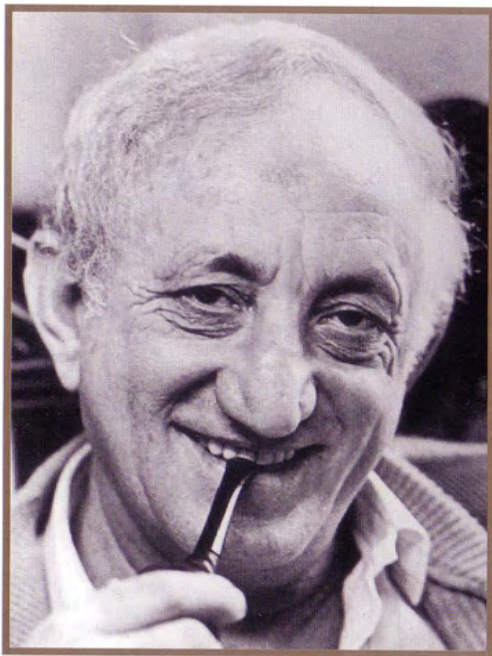




University of Haifa

Yaacov Agmon

Humanitarian Award of Merit



UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

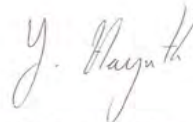
The Humanitarian Award of Merit

is hereby presented to

Yaacov Agmon

for his praiseworthy initiatives and energetic, wide-ranging activity in spreading culture, not only throughout the State of Israel but also beyond its borders.

22 Iyyar 5757/May 29, 1997



Prof. Yehuda Hayuth

President

Yaacov Agmon

Born in Poland, he came to Israel in 1933 and gained his early education in the Workers School and then in the New High School in Tel Aviv. He received higher education at the Kibbutz Seminar and at New York University.

Yaacov Agmon's activity in the area of culture was preceded by his work as head of the Youth Department of the United Jewish Appeal (1956-1958). In 1958, he was appointed director of Special Events and Parades in the Office of the Prime Minister and was responsible for the country's 10th anniversary celebrations. That year, he was named general manager of the Cameri Theater in Tel Aviv, and served in this position until 1962. In 1964, he founded the Bimot Theater, which he managed until 1978. During this period, he produced (in 1968) the film, "Siege," starring his wife, Gila Almagor, and Yehoram Gaon. In 1968, too, he produced a series of evening interviews with Dan Ben-Amotz, which launched the talk show in Israel, and initiated the weekly, "Personal Questions," broadcast to the present time on the Army Radio Station. In 1970, he produced the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition.

From 1973-1978, Mr. Agmon managed the Israel Chamber Music Ensemble and the Rinat Choir. He founded (in 1978) Beit Lessin Theater and managed it until 1986. He served as managing director of Israel's 40th anniversary celebrations in 1988, in the context of which he initiated the "original play festival." As managing director of "Bimot 2000" (1989-1994), he produced Theatronetto for advancing solo performances. Among his productions are the Klezmer Festival in Safed and the Wine Festival in Rishon Lezion as well as a list of national and international events. More recently, he was from 1991-1995 director of the Acre Theater Festival.

Alongside these productions, Yaacov Agmon produced films, edited radio programs for Kol Israel and the Army Station, emceed television shows, and conducted interviews with public figures for the written press. His book, **Personal Questions** (1995), is based on his radio interview program of the same name. He is also responsible for establishing the cultural foundations of the northern border town of Kiriat Shemona.

Since 1995, Yaacov Agmon has served as manager and artistic director of Habimah, the National Theater of Israel.